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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Iran

REPORT NO.

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SUBJECT Dissatisfaction of Army Colonels with Chief of Staff Batmangelich

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1. As of 3 September 1953 the organization of young colonels which led the military phase of Mossadeq's overthrow during the period from 16 to 19 August 1953 was very much dissatisfied with Chief of Staff, General Nader Batmangelich. The colonels said that Batmangelich lacked courage when he failed to seize General Taqi Riahi and the Office of Chief of Staff on 17 August 1953. They stated also that, when Batmangelich was arrested on 17 August 1953, he implicated the colonels and informed on them. The colonels had planned the operation against Mossadeq and had acquainted Batmangelich with their plans only a few days before, on 14 August.
2. The colonels claim moreover that, when the Army led the Tehran mobs to victory on 19 August 1953, Batmangelich did nothing. Despite this fact, he held up their promotions for one week and still refuses to promote two officers who were leaders of the entire campaign to overthrow the Mossadeq Government.
3. As of 3 September 1953, the colonels were saying that Batmangelich must resign. The colonels, who command the entire Tehran garrison, are in an ugly mood and are inclined to "throw their weight around."

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